

NCLB
Committee of Practitioners
Chandler Unified District
James Perry Administration Center
1525 W. Frye Road
Chandler, AZ
January 09, 2004

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

COP MEMBERS

David Baker
Christine Bejarano
Pam Bergstrom
Steve Chambers
Kaye Dean
Analizabeth Doan
Shelly Duran
Robert Edgar
Tonya Ford
Diane Fox
Tim Frey
Allan Grell
Connie Heath
Bruce Iverson
Joan Johnson
Mary Anne Kapp
Bob Klee
Jean Lewis

Leticia Lujan
Norma Malamud
Patricia Marsh
Mary McIntyre
Lynn Monson
Ron Neil
Joe O'Reilly
Patricia Osborne
Ronda Owens
Lucille Schonbrun
Catherine Steele
Julie Thayer
Lynn Thompson
Barbara U'Ren
Maureen Ward
Maureen West
Charlotte Wing

ADE

Margaret Garcia-Dugan
Karen Butterfield
Janet Chin
Nadine Groenig
Ildi Laczko-Kerr
Tee Lambert
Carrie Larson
Muriel Rosmann
Janice Smith
Nancy Stahl

GUESTS

Michelle Bailey
Dr. James Murlless
Janet Sullivan

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

COP co-chair, Norma Malamud, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Tim Frey, Chandler Unified Federal Programs Director, welcomed members and guests to the James Perry Administration Center. Mr. Frey introduced Susan Eissinger, Assistant Superintendent of Chandler Unified. Ms. Eissinger welcomed everyone and expressed her appreciation of the committee member's commitment. Norma then proceeded to have members introduce themselves.

DISTRICT AYP/ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES - Ildi Laczko-Kerr and Garrett Holm

Ildi Laczko-Kerr described the appeal process. Ildi explained that all districts can appeal their AYP rating regardless of data verification. The deadline for appeals is January 16th at 5:00 pm. January 30th districts will receive final AYP designation. There is an embargo on the AYP designations; members were warned not to share at this time. Districts can find more detail on how to file an AYP appeal process on the common log at the ADE web site.

An explanation of how a LEA can fail to make AYP even when their individual schools do was given.

- ❑ LEAs are scored in a similar manner as individual schools
- ❑ LEAs include mobile students within their district as well as new and exiting students
- ❑ There is a 1% cap on AIMS A for LEAs but there was not a cap for individual schools (NCLB mandated 1% of grade level enrollment)
- ❑ A very liberal appeal process exists for individual schools – however the data still holds for LEAs
- ❑ The n-count for disaggregated students is still 30 for LEAs

It was then explained on what happens if the LEA doesn't make AYP.

- ❑ ADE is in the process of making policy decisions about existing LEAs on improvement under the old "extracted items" system
- ❑ LEAs that do not make AYP for 2 years will have to write an LEA improvement plan similar to a school improvement plan
- ❑ LEAs that do not make AYP for 4 years will be identified for corrective action

The concern that Arizona, as well as a majority of the states, will not make their State AYP was expressed.

ADE will notify LEAs on AYP status on January 30, 2004. It was suggested that ADE hold in depth training on the appeal process.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT DIVISION – Nancy Konitzer

Nancy introduced Karen Butterfield the new Deputy Associate Superintendent of Innovative and Exemplary Programs. Karen explained some of the issues that she is working on:

- ❑ Identifying criteria and indicators for best practices for school effectiveness
- ❑ Developing recognition awards for examples of best practices, envisioning using Gold – Silver – Bronze levels
- ❑ Hiring a Stay in School Program Specialist, Rhonda St. Louis

ADE has extended the deadline for filing the NCLB Final Consolidated Plan to March 30, 2004. In order to address the concerns of LEAs, a rubric has been developed that will be shared with the LEAs to assist in filling out their plans. LEAs that have already turned in their plans can leave them and we will evaluate or they can notify ADE and stop the evaluation, review their plan using the rubric as a guide and resubmit. It will be their choice. Workshops will be held, around the state, where ADE will go over the NCLB Consolidated Plan and how to use the rubric. The dates for the workshops along with the rubric can be found on the ADE web site.

ADE will be piloting a joint monitoring with Exceptional Student Services (ESS) this spring where a team will go out to 8 LEAs and monitor both ESS and NCLB programs. Program specialists will be using the On Site Review Protocol for NCLB. LEAs will be notified that they will be involved in the joint monitoring. There will be an assessment on how joint monitoring worked for LEAs as well as for ADE.

NCLB monitoring is evolving into a 6-year cycle, with specific steps being handled each year between LEAs and their ADE program specialist. This will help provide consistency between LEAs and ADE in evaluating the creation, implementing, reviewing and updating of the LEAs NCLB Final Consolidated Plans and eliminate the confusion in understanding federal expectations.

TECHNOLOGY/ DATA – Nancy Konitzer

Superintendent Horne is developing newsletters to be sent via e-mail, one for the public and one for educators. ADE will be sending out newsletters to stakeholders, including the current e-mail groups and anyone who requests to be added to the circulation list. The COP members agreed to be included in the distribution of the newsletter. ADE departments will be contributing articles to educators.

There is a letter going out to LEAs asking them to place Program Director's names and email addresses in the LEA Core Data in the Common Logon on the ADE Web site.

Nancy distributed a letter going out to LEAs outlining the policy decisions made regarding data collections and reporting for both LEAs and the ADE. It explains why ADE requires all this information. ADE is attempting to alleviate the reporting burden of the LEAs. ADE will handle federal requests for information. LEAs need to keep the data current and not wait for a stated deadline when the data is due. State statute indicates that data needs to be updated once every 20 days, guidance suggests once every 10 days. It is important that data is current as it is used to determine allocations as well as for AYP, AZ LEARNS and the NCLB Consolidated Final Plan. As a point of interest, it was pointed out all NCLB letters that are sent to LEAs are numbered for identification. You can retrieve them from the web site. The letter also talks about the LEA's responsibility to keep up-to-date e-mail addresses with ADE. LEAs can update e-mail addresses by accessing the LEA Core Data application in the Common Logon menu.

A question was asked about the best software system that matches ADE's SAIS system. Nancy explained that ADE cannot recommend software but can provide a list of vendors who qualify. She also encouraged LEAs to fill out an online survey at the ADE web site.

COMMITTEE OF PRACTITIONERS' ROLE - Discussion

In light of the questions surrounding AYP and other issues, it was suggested that the COP give ADE direction on providing more training statewide. This brought on a discussion of the role of the Committee of Practitioners. According to NCLB, Section 1903 – the COP's role is to advise the State in carrying out its federal responsibilities. This includes providing input and making recommendations on NCLB issues.

SOLUTIONS TEAMS – Dale Parcell

Carrie Larson introduced Associate Superintendent of the School Effectiveness Division Phyllis Schwartz and the Deputy Associate Superintendent of School Improvement, Dale Parcell. Phyllis talked about the different areas that work towards providing assistance to Arizona's schools. Standards-Based

Teaching and Learning, headed by Deputy Associate Superintendent Marie Mancuso; Best Practices, headed by Deputy Associate Superintendent Cheryl Lebo; and School Improvement, headed by Deputy Associate Superintendent Dale Parcell. She explained that Solution Teams would be working with schools that will be eligible for intervention for the first time in Arizona.

Phyllis turned the presentation over to Dale who took COP through a PowerPoint presentation explaining how schools are identified for Solutions Team to work with. LEAs have a fear that the ADE will take over their schools. It was explained that ADE's approach is more of an intervention.

Solution Teams are comprised of master teachers, fiscal analysts, and curriculum/assessment experts who are certified by the State Board of Education as Arizona Academic Standards Technicians.

As of October 2003 there were 82 schools that had their second year of receiving an underperforming rating. An ADE Solutions Team will visit the schools. The Solutions Team will do a 3-day site visit to review and analyze achievement data. They will conduct interviews, classroom observation and focus group discussions. They will work from the Standard and Rubrics for School Improvement, which can be found at www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness. The team will then produce a "Statement of Findings" that will validate or redirect the school's improvement efforts and offer specific recommendations for moving forward. The "Statement of Findings" establishes a framework for support. ADE will be asking LEAs to submit a plan of how they will support their school.

It was suggested that when Solution Teams found positive strides they would inform the COP Committee who would like to add their voice in acknowledging LEA's successes. It was also recommended that ADE create a web page posting successful strategies to share with other LEAs.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS – Nancy Konitzer

Concerns were addressed trying to contact supplemental providers. Is ADE updating the list of providers and standardizing contract for supplemental providers? Nancy shared that Kim Strehlow is currently recruiting providers and will be keeping the list updated on the ADE web site. If you are having problems with any supplemental providers contact Kim at 602-542-2014 and let her know, she may be able to help you address your concerns. She is also working on creating a standardized contract. Community and Faith-based organizations are encouraged to become providers. This outreach is coming from the federal government.

MegaConference – Norma Malamud

COP members wanted to provide input to ADE on the MegaConference. There was concern expressed about who the conference is for; is it for administrators, Title I coordinators or teachers? Rural LEAs were concerned about the length of the conference; 3 days is hard to be away from their sites. Having to travel so far was a hardship also. Everyone had comments on facility issues: they felt the facilities were not big enough to handle all the participants during the breakout sessions. Participants had to sit on the floor and there were not enough handout materials for everyone.

There were recommendations made to hold more "Mini Conferences" – maybe in the summer for teachers and a separate conference for ELL teachers. A suggestion was made to target breakout sessions on experience level. A recommendation was made to have County Superintendents provide services for

their areas. Technology may be a good way to disseminate information for those who may have travel issues; i.e., videotapes or the use of interactive television.

RECOGNITION OF TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL MADISON ROSE LANE – Principal Dr. Linda Califano

Nancy Stahl introduced her fellow team members from the Recognition subcommittee; Kaye Dean, Shelly Duran, Mary McIntyre, Charlotte Wing and Marjorie Carrithers assisted on the site visits. They reviewed 18 applications and participated in 3 site visits. Nancy was pleased to announce the selection of the Title I Distinguished School is Madison Rose Lane. Principal Dr. Linda Califano and her Assistant Principal Patricia Jones were asked to share. Dr. Califano gave a PowerPoint presentation on the components of their application and some of their teaching strategies that have made them successful. Nancy Konitzer then presented Dr. Califano a plaque acknowledging Madison Rose Lane as the 2004 Title I Distinguished School with a promise of a \$1,000 check for her school. Nancy announced to COP that Dr. Califano would be going to the National Title I Conference in February where Madison Rose Lane will be recognized nationally.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM GRANT – Janice Smith

Norma Malamud introduced Comprehensive School Reform Coordinator, Janice Smith. Janice explained to COP members that the Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Grant is a Federal Grant under Title I. Arizona has 88 schools that are eligible to receive the grant. The deadline is January 30th. Janice handed out to all members a CSR Grant Application and a listing of all 88 schools that were eligible. The LEAs must be in compliance to be awarded the grant. The grant is to be used on school improvement plans. It cannot supplant existing programs. Janice explained that with the grant being awarded so late in the school year LEAs will be able to roll the money over to the next year or use it this summer if it supports their school improvement plan.

Norma concluded the meeting with a reminder that at the next meeting will be March 5, 2004 at Paradise Valley Unified District. The subcommittees would meet from 9:00 am to 10:00 am and the general meeting would start at 10:00 am. Carrie Larson informed COP members that the External Facilitator application can be found on the ADE web site and the deadline is February 27, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm